

App. No.: 09/653,286
Amendment

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claim 30 is currently being amended, claims 1-18 and 20-29 are currently being canceled without prejudice, and new claims 32-41 are currently being added. Therefore, claims 30-41 are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that claims 29 and 30 are allowed. *It appears to Applicants, however, that this is a typographical error and that the Examiner meant to indicate that claims 30 and 31 are allowed.* This is because claims 30 and 31 were the newly submitted claims in the last amendment that were similar to each other. Furthermore, the Examiner indicates that claim 29 is rejected elsewhere in the office action (see Office Action mailed 6/29/05, page 5, lines 14-15), and claim 31 is not mentioned anywhere in the office action as being rejected.

Therefore, Applicants assume that claims 30 and 31 have been allowed.

Applicants have made a minor amendment to the preamble of claim 30. Namely, Applicants have simply changed the claim from a method claim to a claim directed to a recording medium. This amendment is well supported by original claim 7. Applicants assert that this amendment does not affect the allowability of the claim.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 and 20-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,409,603 to Nishino ("Nishino") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,538,666 B1 to

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Ozawa et al. ("Ozawa et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-18 and 20-29 without prejudice for reasons unrelated to patentability. Therefore, these rejections are now moot.

Applicants have added new dependent claims 32-36 which depend from independent claim 30, and new dependent claims 37-41 which depend from independent claim 31. These new dependent claims are supported by and very similar to original claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, and 11, and previously presented claims 13 and 14. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

As mentioned above, Applicants assert that independent claims 30 and 31 have been allowed. Therefore, new dependent claims 32-41 are also in a condition for allowance due to their dependence on claims 30 and 31.

No Fees Believed to be Due

Fees have previously been paid in this application for a total of 30 claims with 8 claims being independent claims. The above amendment results in there now being a total of 12 claims with 2 claims being independent claims. Therefore, no extra claims fees are believed to be due.

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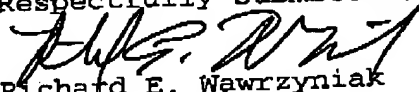
C O N C L U S I O N

In view of the above, Applicants submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Richard E. Wawrzyniak at (858)552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Dated

9/27/05

Respectfully submitted,


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